

Remarks

The applicant would like to thank the examiner for the July 19, 2005 discussion of the Office Action dated May 25, 2005. In conversation and based on the proposed amendment, it was generally agreed that the requirement of either, or both, Co or Ni in the substrate composition addresses the rejection as related to the Pantano reference since Pantano does not disclose Co or Ni as a tinting agent. As such, it was agreed that Claim 8 in amended form would be allowable over Pantano and Mizuno references. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a page entitled "Version of Markings to Show Changes Made."

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-25 remain in this application. Claims 1, 8-10, 18, 21, and 24-25 have been amended. Claims 4 and 6 have previously been cancelled. New Claim 26 has been added.

**1. § 112 Rejections**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, asserting that the specification is not commensurate in scope with these claims. Claims 24 and 25 have been amended to limit pore sizes to "about 5  $\mu\text{m}$ " and "between about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ ", respectively. The Examiner has indicated that such an amendment would be deemed acceptable in overcoming the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (See Office Action p.2, ¶3). Applicants have amended the claims accordingly.

The Examiner has further rejected Claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended Claims 8 and 10 to clarify the compositional

components to include "at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{NiO}$ " (See Specification, p. 13, ¶41 and p. 14, ln 1). Likewise, Claim 21 has been amended for consistency.

Consequently, new Claim 26 contains a limitation previously contained in Claim 8.

## 2. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7, 13-20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pantano et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. US2003/0054176).

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 18 are patentable over Pantano. The claimed invention as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 18 follows:

1. (Currently amended) A porous substrate comprising: a support; and an inorganic porous region on a surface of said support, the inorganic porous region having a surface capable of immobilizing probe molecules, the inorganic porous region having a tint and exhibits a reduced level of auto-fluorescence of at least about 15% relative to a comparable non-tinted porous substrate surface,  
wherein said tint comprises at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  or  $\text{NiO}$ , alone or in combination.

18. (Previously amended) A tool for performing biological or chemical assays, the tool comprises a non-porous support; and an inorganic porous region on a surface of said support, the inorganic porous region having a surface capable of immobilizing probe molecules, the inorganic porous region having a tint and exhibits a reduced level of auto-fluorescence of at least about 15% relative to a comparable non-tinted porous substrate surface,  
wherein said tint comprises at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  or  $\text{NiO}$ , alone or in combination.

The teachings of Pantano differ significantly from the present invention as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 18. The amended independent Claims 1 and 18 each recite a limitation where the tint comprises at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{NiO}$ . Pantano fails to teach or suggest a tint comprising at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{NiO}$ . Instead, the Examiner asserts that Pantano teaches a tinted porous region having a colorant component including a transition metal ion (Zinc; [0051]). Applicants continue to contend that any Zinc composition will not serve as a colorant when incorporated into glass. In addition, none of the references cited include these further considerations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned substantial differences between Pantano and the amended independent Claims 1 and 18 and their associated dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, and 7-26 are indicative of the patentability of the present invention.

A rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that the Pantano reference, in order to anticipate the present invention, teach or suggest all the claim limitations disclosed by the claim. The claimed invention requires the substrate of this invention have a tinted porous region that “comprises at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  or  $\text{NiO}$ , alone or in combination” that is not taught by the Pantano reference or any of the cited references. Since amended independent Claims 1 and 18 both require this limitation, it is respectfully submitted that they are in condition for allowance. Likewise, since dependent claims all require this limitation of amended independent Claims 1 and 18, it is respectfully submitted that they too are in condition for allowance.

### **3. § 103 Rejections**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 8, 9, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Pantano et al. (US2003/0054176) in light of Mizuno et al. (US2002/0042068). Claims 10, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Pantano in

view of Tanner et al. (US2003/0003474). Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pantano in view of Mizuno, and further, in view of Young et al. (US 6,391,809).

Amended Claims 1-3, 5, 7-26 of the present invention all require a porous region having a tint comprising “at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  or  $\text{NiO}$ , alone or in combination.”

Applicants respectfully submit that Pantano and Mizuno, either alone or in combination, do not render amended claims 8, 9, 21, and 22 obvious. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the Pantano and Mizuno references in combination must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. As previously discussed, Pantano fails to recite or suggest a porous region having a tint comprising “at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{NiO}$ .” Likewise, Mizuno does not teach or suggest a porous region having a tint comprising “at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{NiO}$ .”

Additionally, amended Claims 11 and 12 depend from amended Claim 8 and also recite a tint comprising “at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{NiO}$ ”, and are therefore patentable over Pantano in view of Mizuno, further in view of Young.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Pantano and Tanner, either alone or in combination, do not render amended claims 10, 24, and 25 obvious. Neither Pantano nor Tanner teach or suggest a porous region having a tint comprising “at least one of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  or  $\text{NiO}$ , alone or in combination.”

#### **4. Conclusion**

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests (re)consideration of the pending Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-26 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

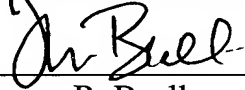
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: SP03-091  
SERIAL NO. 10/629,444  
FILED: JULY 29, 2003  
EXAMINER: MELANIE J. YU  
GROUP ART UNIT: 1641  
PAGE 12

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Thomas R. Beall at (607) 974-3921.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 25, 2005

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